

Committee Meetings: Frequently Asked Questions

When is a quorum required?

A quorum of committee members must be physically present at a meeting in order to "act officially" or "transact business". A committee member's proxy does not constitute a member being physically present and does not count toward establishing a quorum of the committee.

"Act officially" or "transact business" means:

- Initially convening the meeting of the committee;
- Taking executive action on legislation; or
- If there is a question that comes before the committee in which the committee takes collective formal action (i.e. a vote of the committee) on that question. (H30-30)

When is proxy voting allowed?

If the committee, by majority vote, authorizes proxy voting, then proxy voting is authorized on all motions, except a motion to remove a bill from the table. (H30-50)(9))

What motions in committee are not debatable?

Motion to table. (H50-90)

Motion to take from the table. (H50-90)

How many votes are required to take a bill from the table?

By a majority of members present and voting. Proxy voting is not allowed. (H30-50(10))

Any amendments passed by a majority of the committee members remain on the bill if the bill is taken from the table in committee?

How many votes are needed to "blast" a bill tabled in committee out of committee and to the House floor?

60 votes (3/5ths) of House members present, proxies are not allowed. (H40-90 and H50-160).

Any amendments that the committee passed are not included on the bill. (H30-50(7))

How many votes are needed to place a bill on the House consent calendar?

The vote on the bill must be unanimous (all members, not just members present). And, there must be a specific motion to place the bill on the consent calendar and that motion must also pass unanimously. An appropriation or revenue bill may not be placed on the consent calendar. (H40-110)

If an appropriation is added to a bill in committee but the bill is not yet reported from the committee, does the bill become an appropriation bill?

Yes.

If a fiscal note is missing from a bill, can the committee still act on the bill? Yes, but the bill may not be officially reported out of the committee until the fiscal note is attached. (H30-50(6)(d))

How many votes are required to request a committee bill?

3/4ths of all members - 14 members (HB30-50(13))